

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 95-1119-G - ORDER NO. 95-1611 ✓
OCTOBER 20, 1995

IN RE: Request by Operators of Gas Transmission) ORDER
Pipelines for Waiver from Federal Gas) GRANTING
Pipeline Safety Regulations to Allow the) REQUEST FOR
use of the Clock Spring Device for Repairs.) WAIVER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the requests of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Clinton-Newberry Natural Gas Authority, Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works, South Carolina Pipeline Corporation, and Greer Commission of Public Works (the operators of gas transmission pipelines) for a waiver of 49 CFR 192.713(a) and 192.485 to be able to make repairs of non-leaking defects on pipelines using a method identified as the Clock Spring wrapping device.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Executive Director, the operators of gas transmission pipelines published Notices of the request in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene have been received. The Commission will therefore proceed to decide the question.

The Federal Research and Special Programs Administration has waived at the Federal level maintenance regulations 49 CFR 192.713(a) and 192.485 to permit 28 pipeline operators and their

subsidiaries to repair steel gas transmission lines with Clock Spring wrap. The Clock Spring wrap apparently presents numerous advantages to operators of gas transmission lines in the repair of their lines.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-970 (1976), as amended, the Public Service Commission has adopted and enforces the minimum Federal Safety Standards for the transportation of gas and pipeline facilities established by the Secretary of Transportation. S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-1050 (1976), as amended, defines the relationship of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina and Federal agencies. Section 58-5-1050(b) states that in the event that new or amended Federal Safety Standards are adopted, the Commission shall submit an appropriate certification to comply with the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act. Section (c) of this statute allows the Commission to enforce Federal Safety Standards in South Carolina in lieu of enforcement by the Department of Transportation, as permitted by the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as may be amended from time-to-time, and exercise regulatory jurisdiction over the safety of pipeline systems, and the transportation of gas, as permitted by the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as may be amended from time-to-time.

The Commission has examined this matter, and believes that the waiver should be granted applicable to operators of gas transmission pipelines under five (5) conditions as set out below:

1. Clock Spring wrap must be installed using procedures recommended to by the manufacturer;


2. Clock Spring wrap must be installed consistent with the program, GRI WRAP;
3. Clock Spring wrap must be installed consistent with a Gas Research Institute Plan, including, at two-year intervals, excavating and evaluating a statistical sample of sites, recording the results, and sending the results to Research and Special Programs Administration;
4. To allow inspection by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, scheduled non-emergency installations of Clock Spring wrap must be reported (by phone, fax, or mail), a reasonable time period before installation to the Commission. All emergency installations not previously reported shall be reported to the Commission as soon as practical after installation; and
5. Persons installing Clock Spring wrap must have been trained and certified in installation procedures either by the Clock Spring company or by persons the Clock Spring company has trained and certified.

Pursuant to the statutes listed above, the waiver is effective upon approval by the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety. Although the Commission hereby approves the waiver, the Commission notes that the waiver shall not be effective unless the Office of Pipeline Safety approves it. The Commission Staff must therefore submit the waiver to the Office of Pipeline Safety for approval, and notify each operator of action taken by the Office of Pipeline Safety in this regard. As we understand it, the Office of Pipeline Safety has up to sixty (60) days to act on the waiver after submission.

DOCKET NO. 95-1119-G - ORDER NO. 95-1611
OCTOBER 20, 1995
PAGE 4

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further
Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)